## **Central District Health Department**

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 28, 2000

National Child Health Day October 2, 2000 Mission 2000: Early Childhood Launching Healthy Futures www.mchb.hrsa.gov

If you think that the health of children under age five in America is a given, you don't have the whole story. Although the first five years of children's lives are crucial to their physical, mental, and social development, consider the following statistics:

- Nearly 3.7 million children under age six in the United States are uninsured, lacking access to regular health care.
- The rate of deaths for children ages one to four is 34.4 per 100,000 children. The leading cause of those deaths in unintentional injuries.

How can we provide better care for children?

The State of Idaho has created the Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP provides insurance to working and nonworking families. It allows parents, grandparents, or guardians to get health insurance coverage, which children need and deserve. For more information, call the Idaho CareLine at 800-926-2588 or visit the web site: <a href="http://www2.state.id.us/dhw/chip">http://www2.state.id.us/dhw/chip</a>.

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among children. Children are primarily at risk from: motor vehicle injuries which include children as occupants, pedestrians, and bicyclists; drowning; fire and burns; suffocation; choking; unintentional firearm injures; falls; and poisonings. The National SAFE KIDS Campaign's mission is to prevent unintentional injury. Their web site: <a href="www.safekids.org">www.safekids.org</a> contains a wealth of information including product recalls, car seat information, sports safety and an great list of health/safety links. Check it out!

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